

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is disclosed for a method for measuring the availability of a network element or service. For each network element N , a current real availability value $CRAV_N$ and a current time value CTV_N are associated with network element N . Additionally, for each network element N , an operational state value OSV_N is associated with network element N . At a later time, indicated by a new time value NTV_N , a new real availability value $NRAV_N$ for network element N is determined based on the current availability value $CRAV_N$, the current time value CTV_N , the new time value NTV_N , and the operational state value OSV_N . The new real availability value $NRAV_N$ is stored. Thus, each separate network element N may be associated with a separate real availability value that accurately reflects the availability of network element N specifically, regardless of any availability approximated for network element N 's type.